

Minutes of Meeting
CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
Newton Police Department – The Chief's Conference Room
7:00pm – Wednesday – May 18, 2011

Commissioners Present: Frank Wolpe (Chair), George Cullen, Bernard Goulding, Colleen Rosenbaum, Scott, Rosenbaum, Marjorie Kagan, Benjamin Rubin, David Winer

Commissioners Absent: Louis Bruno, Fred Winer, Frances Shaer, Marc Epstein, Leonard Fisher, Richard Wing

Ex-Officio Members Present: Bruce Apotheker

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Matt Cummings, Jeff Silton

Regular Invited Guests Present: Richard Catrambone, Debra Darcy

Regular Invited Guests Absent: Ellen Manning,

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Frank Wolpe, Chair; and Lt. Bruce Apotheker delivered the Crime Report in writing. The good news was that larcenies were down in the City by 25%, year to date, and that felony assaults were also down to 20, this year to date, from 28 last year to date. The mixed news was that burglaries remain constant with 52 in both 2010 and 2011 for this and last year to date.

Without objection, the meeting went directly to the single agenda item planned for this assembly with NEWTV present for a full recording of the proceedings. The Chair introduced CPC liaison person on Domestic Violence, Bernie Goulding, and NPD Sgt. Bill Spaulding who delivered a spectacularly professional report with PowerPoint slides about the NPD-RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) program. RAD was impressively described as a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. It is a comprehensive, women-only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. Courses are taught by nationally certified RAD Instructors.

Spaulding reported that in 2006, 233,000 women in the nation were raped. Indeed, 1 out of 5 women in their lifetimes would be the victims of rape or attempted rape. He talked a lot about how women should learn how to depend upon themselves and self-realize their own strength. In this regard, RAD trains them to simulate actual punching and learn techniques to assure the element of surprise.

Because of the importance of this project, members and non-members present were moved by the appearance and testimony of three truly extraordinary and heroic speakers, Lillie Konowitz, age 17, a student at HSHS and a victim of attempted rape, her Dad, Steven Konowitz,

Esq. and her mother, Dianne Konowitz. All three tearfully spoke with deep emotion about Lillie's life saving experience in Aruba not long ago. They expressed their gratitude toward Sgt. Spaulding and the entire NPD for the RAD training they believe saved her life as she fended off her attacker. In attendance also were Laura Marks, Co-president of the NSHS Parent Teachers Organization, Meg Bossong, Community Project Manager, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.

In closing, all present turned attention to the limited resources now available to maintain and acquire necessary equipment to maintain and improve program offerings to all high school students in the City as well as other interested women within the city. It was suggested that we find a §503(c)(3) organization that could legally receive donations for the use of NPD equipment purchases. The Commission, therefore, asked NPD Sgt. Spaulding to set about the task of writing his "wish list" so that we might target a fund raising goal. He agreed.

Some of the items needed included "Red Man" Protective Suits, student gear, pads, a lap top, a video recorder camera, information booklets, awareness flyers, etc.

Further, it was agreed that we should develop an "action plan" for how we might co-sponsor and help facilitate RAD training especially for the young women in our Newton schools. Much credit, all agreed, goes to the NPD for its great lifesaving success with the full senior officer support of Chief Matt Cummings.

In closing, Jenn Adams, News Director for NEWTV reported how a report of these proceedings would be televised. She said that the initial broadcast would be on Comcast channel 10, Verizon channel 34 and RCN channel 15 at 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 25, 2011. It would be billed as a Newton News Program. Thereafter, for one week, it would be rebroadcast every day for a week at 7:30am, 1:00pm, 6:30pm and 10:00pm.

The next meeting will be on June 15, 2011. On a motion made by the Chair, and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.